Notes and Observations

THE BROWN-TAIL MOTH: EUPROCTIS CHRYSORRHOEA L. IN BUCKINGHAM PALACE GARDEN. – The sporadic westward incursions of the Brown-tail from the Thames esturary into London in recent years reached a significant magnitude in July 1983 when more than 30 specimens were recorded in the m.v. light trap in the grounds of Buckingham Palace. The majority were found in the trap on 13th July, when Mr. Fred Kemp (Deputy Head Gardener) and I counted at least 24 in the trap and noted one or two outside (specimens examined proved to be males). Also in the trap were two specimens of the White Satin Moth (*Leucoma salicis* L.).

Moth trapping has been continued annually in the palace grounds for the past 23 years, since June 1960. An initial report on the Lepidoptera appeared in *The Natural History of the Garden of Buckingham Palace* published in 1964 as part of the *Proceedings and Transactions of the British Entomological & Natural History Society*, and was followed in 1966 by an account of further records and observations made in 1964-65. At that time the Brown-tail had not been observed in the palace garden, and it was not until 1967 that the first moths appeared, three being found in the trap on 14th July and a singleton in early August. Brown-tails were not seen again until nine years later, when four were trapped in July 1976. Other records were in August 1978 (3) July 1981 (1) and July 1982 (4 or 5). During the first week of July 1983, 8 moths appeared in the trap, and these were followed a week later by the major cumulative catch of 25-30 trapped over 3 consecutive nights preceding the 13th July. Since then no Brown-tails have appeared in the trap up to 8th August. – J. D. BRADLEY.

UNUSUAL ABUNDANCE OF INACHIS IO L. – On August 6th 1983, this butterfly was in bigger numbers than I ever remember. Above Soar Mill Cove near Salcombe, S. Devon, there is a patch of buddleia roughly four to five yards square, the flowers of which were groaning under the weight of *I. io*. It was difficult to make an accurate count because of the constant movement, but three different attempts produced 71, 78 and 82, all in mint condition. – R. LOVELL-PANK, 33 The Highlands, Hatfield Road, Potters Bar, Herts.

COSMIA TRAPEZINA L. LARVAE FEEDING ON APPLE BLOSSOM. – In early May 1983 I found a number of small Noctuid larvae characterized by black legs inside apple blossom in my Dartford garden. I was unable to identify them until they were about half-grown when they were seen to be *trapezina*, later confirmed when moths emerged. In the meantime they had been supplied with young leaves and blossom of apple, but leaves, petals and calyx remained largely untouched, only the stamens and stigma of each flower being eaten, until blossom was no longer readily available and leaves